POLK SCHOLASTIC CHESS, INC. • A FLORIDA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

Privacy Policy

What we collect, how we use and protect it, and your choices

The short version. Polk Scholastic Chess, Inc. ("**PSC**", "**we**") collects only what we need to run scholastic chess tournaments and our programs. We **never sell or rent** personal information, we do not use advertising or tracking cookies, and we do not publish email addresses. Information about children is provided by their parents, guardians or school coaches, and parents can review, correct or delete it. Tournament results — player name, school, grade, division and score — are published, as is customary in scholastic chess.

1. Scope

This Privacy Policy explains how PSC collects, uses, shares and protects personal information through our website at polkscholasticchess.com (the "**Site**"), player registration, coach and volunteer accounts, applications, emails and our tournaments and other events ("**Events**"). It is part of our **Terms & Conditions**, which include the agreement that disputes are decided only in the courts of Polk County, Florida, sitting in Bartow.

2. Information we collect

Who / when	What we collect	Why
Player registration (by a parent, guardian or coach)	Player's name, date of birth, grade, school, division, rating and tournament history; parent or guardian name, email, phone and address; emergency contact; agreements, photo permission and newsletter choice; typed initials as electronic signature	To register and place players, run pairings, publish results, contact families, handle emergencies and keep required records
Payments	Amount, date, PayPal transaction ID and status. Card and bank details are entered on PayPal and are never received or stored by PSC	To confirm and reconcile payments and refunds
Coaches and school officials	Name, school, email, phone, login details, forms submitted and tournament-day check-in time. If you use location check-in, your device's location at that moment (used only to confirm you are at the venue)	To manage school teams and confirm attendance
Student volunteers	Name, school, grade, contact details, parent contact, preferred roles, availability and hours served	To schedule volunteers and issue service-hour letters
Scholarship applicants	Name, school, contact details, chess history, essays and the information requested in the application	To review applications and award scholarships
Contact form and newsletter	Name, email, optional phone, your role, topic, school or player name you choose to give, and your message; newsletter email address	To reply to you and send newsletters you asked for
Everyone who visits the Site	IP address, browser and device type, pages requested, date and time, the page you came from, and technical error details	To run and secure the Site, prevent spam and abuse, fix problems and understand how the Site is used
Events	Results and games; photographs or video only with parent photo permission for minors	To run Events, publish results and celebrate players

We collect information about children only from their parents, guardians or authorized school coaches, not directly from children. Children under 13 should not submit information to us; if we learn that we

have received personal information directly from a child under 13 without a parent's consent, we will delete it.

3. Cookies and similar technologies

We use only **strictly necessary** cookies: to keep you signed in, protect forms against forgery, remember a registration in progress and keep the Site secure. We do not use advertising, cross-site tracking or social-media tracking cookies, and we do not sell or share information for targeted advertising. Our security check may be provided by Cloudflare Turnstile, and the Site loads fonts from Google Fonts and opens maps in Google Maps; those providers receive your IP address and browser information under their own privacy policies. You can block cookies in your browser, but parts of the Site, such as sign-in and registration, will then not work. We do not currently respond to browser "Do Not Track" signals because we do not track you across other websites.

4. How we use information

- to register players, run tournaments, the March Championship and award ceremonies, calculate ratings, qualification and team standings, and publish results;
- to communicate with families, coaches and volunteers about registrations, schedules, changes, emergencies, results and our programs;
- to process payments, refunds and donations and keep financial records required of a non-profit;
- to review volunteer and scholarship applications;
- to answer messages, provide support and improve the Site and our Events;
- to protect the safety of players and others, prevent fraud, spam and abuse, secure our systems and enforce our Terms; and
- to comply with the law, legal process and requests from public authorities.

5. What we publish

- **Results and standings:** player name, school, grade, division, scores, ratings, qualification and awards, on the Site, in printed materials, at Events and in newsletters.
- **Photographs:** only of minors whose parent or guardian gave photo permission; we do not caption a minor's photograph with his or her full name.
- **Board members, ambassadors and sponsors:** names, photographs, titles and biographies they provide.
- We never publish home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or dates of birth.

6. When we share information

We do **not sell, rent or trade** personal information. We share it only:

- **with your school coach**, who can see and update the registrations of the players on his or her school team;
- **with service providers** who help us run the Site and our programs — for example web and database hosting, email delivery, PayPal for payments, Cloudflare for security and pairing or rating software — only as needed to provide their services and under obligations to protect the information;
- **with chess organizations**, such as a rating or federation body, when a player takes part in an Event that is rated or reported, limited to what that organization requires;
- **for legal reasons**: to comply with a law, subpoena or court order, to respond to lawful requests from authorities, to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, or to protect the rights, property or safety of PSC, players, families or others;
- **in an emergency**, with medical or emergency personnel; and

- **if PSC merges with or transfers its programs to another non-profit**, which must continue to protect the information under terms at least as protective as this Policy.

7. How long we keep information

We keep registration, results and payment records for as long as needed for the purposes above and our legal and accounting obligations. Results and standings form a permanent historical record of our tournaments. Contact-form messages and technical logs are kept only as long as needed to respond to you and keep the Site secure, and unfinished online registrations expire automatically. When information is no longer needed we delete it or remove the details that identify a person.

8. How we protect information

We use administrative, technical and physical safeguards appropriate to a volunteer non-profit, including encrypted connections (HTTPS), hashed passwords, two-step verification and role-based access for administrators, an audit log of administrative changes, anti-spam and rate-limiting controls, and limiting access to the volunteers who need it. No method of transmission or storage is completely secure, so we cannot guarantee absolute security. If a breach of personal information occurs, we will notify affected individuals and authorities as required by section 501.171, Florida Statutes, and other applicable law.

9. Your choices and rights

- **Review and correct.** Parents and guardians can review and correct a player's information through their child's school coach or by contacting us; coaches can update their own details in the Coaches Corner.
- **Delete.** You may ask us to delete personal information. We will do so unless we must keep it for legal, accounting, safety or record-keeping reasons (for example payment records or published historical results, where we may instead remove contact details).
- **Children's information.** A parent or guardian may at any time ask us to stop collecting or using a child's information and to delete it, which may mean the child can no longer take part in our Events.
- **Photographs.** Withdraw photo permission at any time and we will remove the photograph from the Site within a reasonable time.
- **Emails.** Unsubscribe from newsletters using the link in any newsletter. We will still send messages needed for a registration or Event.

To make a request, use the contact form at polkscholasticchess.com/contact and choose the topic that fits best. We will verify your identity — and, for a child's information, that you are the parent or legal guardian — before acting, and we will respond within a reasonable time, normally within 30 days.

10. Schools and student records

PSC is an independent non-profit and is not a school or school district. Information we collect is provided by families and coaches for our programs and is not part of a school's education records. Schools and school districts have their own policies for the information they hold.

11. Links to other websites

The Site links to other websites and services that we do not control, such as PayPal, Google Maps and social media. Their privacy practices are governed by their own policies, which we encourage you to read.

12. Where information is kept

The Site is intended for families in Polk County, Florida. Information is stored and processed in the United States. If you use the Site from outside the United States, you understand that your information will be

handled under United States and Florida law.

13. Changes to this Policy

We may update this Policy by posting a new version on the Site with a new "Last updated" date. If a change materially affects how we use information we already hold, we will give notice on the Site or by email before it applies to that information.

14. Governing law and disputes

This Policy is governed by Florida law. Any dispute about it is subject to the Terms & Conditions, including the requirement to contact us first, the exclusive venue of the County and Circuit Courts in and for Polk County, Florida, sitting in Bartow, and the jury trial waiver.

15. Contact us

Questions or requests about privacy: use the contact form at **polkscholasticchess.com/contact**. Written notices: Polk Scholastic Chess, Inc., Attention: Privacy, at the mailing address shown on the Contact page of the Site.

Last updated November 17, 2026. This Policy replaces the privacy section of the "Privacy Policy and Terms of Use" dated August 2012.